

Grade 4.1.1 Comprehension Maze

Akiak

Crack! The race had begun. Akiak (**knew, stood, spoke**) this was her last chance to (**skip, win, hear**) the Iditarod, a dogsled race held (**on, in, there**) Alaska. She was getting old. The (**sled, dog, trail**) was long and snowy. In ten (**seconds, decades, days**), the best team would win the (**dollar, race, dog**).

Akiak was Mick's best lead dog. (**On, For, It**) Day 4, Mick's team was in (**Alaska, trouble, first**) place. But there was still a (**terrific, long, stink**) way to go. Akiak was already (**limping, open, sneezing**). The snow had hurt her paw. (**Akiak, Mick, Sam**) sadly took Akiak out of the (**race, bag, box**). Akiak had to go home.

But (**it, Akiak, our**) knew Mick's team needed her. She (**look, sang, ran**) into the snowy mountains. Akiak had (**to, them, if**) find her team.

Akiak searched for (**as, the, on**) team for days. She slept in (**my, his, the**) deep snow. Some men tried to (**catch, cry, stand**) Akiak. She ran away. Many kind (**animals, plants, people**) gave her food.

Day 10 at (**night, last, peak**)! Mick's team was in second place. (**The, From, In**) new lead dog was lost. Suddenly, (**we, front, there**) was Akiak! She knew the right (**trail, answer, person**). She jumped into the sled with (**boys, bags, Mick**). Now they were in the lead!

(**Finally, Snowing, Glad**), Mick's team crossed the finish line. (**Bears, People, Your**) came from all over to cheer (**for, at, went**) Akiak. Even though she wasn't the (**ugly, worst, lead**) dog, Akiak had finally won the Iditarod.

Total Correct: _____ Total Errors: _____

Grade 4.1.2 Comprehension Maze

Grandfather's Journey

Allen Say's grandfather left Japan as a young boy. He took a steamship across the **(little, Pacific, Erie)** Ocean to the United States.

Everything **(She, Grandfather, we)** saw was new to him. He **(wanted, saw, grew)** fields and mountains. He saw many **(nervous, animals, different)** people. But Grandfather liked California best. **(He , Father, Our)** loved the mountains and the sea.

(Stepmother, Running, Grandfather) went back to Japan and got **(stolen, married, diseases)**. He brought his wife to California. **(After, But, Happily)** Grandfather missed Japan. He kept songbirds **(by, near, to)** remind him of Japan.

His grandson **(loved, felt, took)** to hear Grandfather's stories about California. **(I, Grandfather, Son)** wanted to visit California again. But **(even, it, a)** war broke out. Grandfather went back **(to, at, home)** his old village. He was too **(crabby, sad, short)** to keep songbirds anymore. Grandfather never **(heard, walked, saw)** California again.

When Allen Say grew **(under, flowers, up)**, he visited California. He began to **(love, wail, build)** it as much as his grandfather **(said, had, believed)**. He stayed in California and got **(married, house, divorced)** and had a family.

Now, when **(Alaska, Allen, Mrs.)** Say visits Japan, he misses California. **(Finally, Quickly, When)** he visits California, he misses Japan. **(Believe, Just, Least)** like Grandfather, he loves two places.

Total Correct: _____ Total Errors: _____

Grade 4.1.3 Comprehension Maze

Finding the Titanic

It was August, 1985. Robert Ballard and his crew thought **(they, so, maybe)** had found the *Titanic* at last! **(Boys, Ballard, Barely)** had always dreamed of finding the **(Lusitania, Titanic, treasured)**. No one had seen the ship **(ever, drown, since)** 1912. That was when it hit **(jackpot, always, an)** iceberg and sank to the bottom **(of, above, ground)** the ocean.

The water was too **(blue, deep, rushing)** for people. A robot camera took **(flight, flashing, pictures)** of the ocean floor. Ballard watched **(people, extra, the)** pictures on a video screen. He **(thought, believe, sadly)** about the people who had been **(saved, swimming, free)** from the shipwreck.

Ruth Becker was **(beautiful, twelve, young)** years old in 1912. She was **(saved, excited, child)** to travel on the *Titanic* with **(luggage, class, her)** family. Everyone cheered and waved as **(by, the, frantically)** *Titanic* left for New York.

Four **(months, wrecking, days)** later, the ship hit an iceberg! **(Luckily, Frankly, Running)** Ruth and her family got into **(rooms, lifeboats, line)**. The *Titanic* broke apart and sank. **(Ruth, Robert, Boats)** and her family were saved the **(great, next, vacation)** day. But many other people died.

(When, Now, After) Ballard and the crew watched the **(people, waving, video)** screen. At first, they saw only **(flashy, mud, painting)**. Then someone yelled, "Bingo!" Suddenly, there **(was, bang, blew)** the *Titanic*! It sat in two **(story, pieces, crashing)** on the ocean floor.

A year **(later, goes, future)**, Ballard and his crew placed a **(paper, plaque, bronzing)** on the *Titanic*. Ballard was sad **(and, by, when)** other explorers took items from the **(wreck, carriage, cemetery)**. To him, the *Titanic* is like **(secret, a, discovering)** museum. It should be left in peace.

Total Correct: _____ Total Errors: _____

Grade 4.1.4 Comprehension Maze

By the Shores of Silver Lake

The day was finally here! Ma and her four girls were **(taking, talking, sweet)** their first train ride to meet **(the, Pa, conductor)** in a town called Tracy. They **(drove, would, seat)** leave Plum Creek forever.

The girls **(grazed, waited, many)** in the depot while Ma bought **(the, me, feathered)** tickets. Laura was so excited she **(screamed, couldn't, sat)** sit still. Ma was nervous. You **(never, found, are)** knew what could happen on a **(jump, train, dream)**. It was the newest, fastest way **(forward, to, under)** travel.

The train came at last. **(They, Crowded, It)** was huge! The smokestack blew black **(straw, swirling, smoke)** into the sky. The whistle screamed. **(Even, The, Pa)** train made the whole ground shake. The **(chairs, train, screeching)** stopped in front of them. Everyone **(was, look, grabbed)** safe!

Ma and the girls found their **(seats, wishes, paying)** on the train. The train started **(event, slowly, hungrily)**. It went faster and faster.

Mary, **(three, came, the)** oldest girl, had become blind because **(of, we, the)** a sickness. Pa had told Laura **(that, to, when)** be Mary's eyes, so she told **(she, softly, Mary)** all about the train. She told Mary **(to, what, and)** the seats looked like. She told Mary **(about, that, several)** the different people on the train.

(Many, A, Single) boy was selling candy from a **(machine, basket, serving)**. At first, Ma said no. Ten **(minutes, pieces, cents)** was a lot of money. Then **(person, shaking, Ma)** gave the boy a nickel and **(shook, five, ate)** pennies! It was a special trip, **(after, during, never)** all. The girls shared the candy. **(Suddenly, Dangerously, Kept)** the engine whistled. The train moved **(over, wheels, slower)** and slower. Finally, the train stopped. **(They, Still, Crew)** were in Tracy at last.

Total Correct: _____ Total Errors: _____

Answer Key for Gr. 6, Theme 1, Reading Mazes Comprehension

Akiak

1. knew
2. win
3. in
4. trail
5. days
6. race
7. On
8. first
9. long
10. limping
11. Mick
12. race
13. Akiak
14. ran
15. to
16. the
17. the
18. catch
19. people
20. last
21. The
22. there
23. trail
24. Mick
25. Finally
26. People
27. for
28. lead

Grandfather's

Journey

1. Pacific
2. Grandfather
3. saw
4. different
5. He
6. Grandfather
7. married
8. But
9. to
10. loved
11. Grandfather
12. a
13. to
14. sad
15. saw
16. up
17. love
18. had
19. married
20. Allen
21. When
22. Just

Titanic

1. they
2. Ballard
3. Titanic
4. since
5. an
6. of
7. deep
8. pictures
9. the
10. thought
11. saved
12. twelve
13. excited
14. her
15. the
16. days
17. Luckily
18. lifeboats
19. Ruth
20. next
21. Now
22. video
23. mud
24. was
25. pieces
26. later
27. plaque
28. when
29. wreck
30. a

Shores of

Silverlake

1. taking
2. Pa
3. would
4. waited
5. the
6. couldn't
7. The
8. train
9. was
10. seats
11. slowly
12. the
13. of
14. to
15. Mary
16. what
17. about
18. A
19. basket
20. cents
21. Me
22. five
23. after
24. Suddenly
25. slower
26. They